



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

17 NOVEMBER 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Two Men Sentenced for \$6 Million Cyber Fraud Scam

(U) Two California residents have been sentenced for taking part in a multimillion-dollar cybercriminal operation that involved targeted phishing emails, online romance scams, and malware-driven fraud. George Ugochukwu Egwumba of Cypress and Princewell Arinze Duru of Sacramento were sentenced to more than 10 years each by separate courts in California for their role in the Nigerian-run enterprise. Both men were convicted of money laundering and wire fraud in June. They are just two of 80 suspects charged with offenses relating to the scam, which saw victims robbed of at least \$6 million.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [Cyber News](#) [US DOJ](#)

(U) Sacramento – Federal Grand Jury Convenes on Indictment of Aryan Brotherhood Members

(U) A federal grand jury has convened to review evidence and indict five alleged members of the Aryan Brotherhood by mid-December, according to court papers. Prosecutors in the Eastern District of California say they're seeking an indictment against five alleged Aryan Brotherhood members who have already been facing murder and racketeering charges since 2019 when they were charged as part of a 16-defendant federal investigation targeting the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. All five men are already serving life in state prison for murder. This indictment is expected to include new allegations and will signal if federal prosecutors will seek death against any of the defendants.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [Mercury News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona – Violent Crime Initiative Yields Multiple Federal Indictments and Arrests

(U) Phoenix – Seventeen individuals were indicted federally, with most being arrested, following an intensive violent crime initiative on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. The charges filed in this investigation include arson, aggravated assault, firearms violations, domestic violence assaults, assault against an officer, child abuse, sexual assault, kidnapping, manslaughter, and murder. The FBI led the investigation, with significant assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the San Carlos Apache Tribal Police Department, and the San Carlos Apache Tribal Prosecutor's Office.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Iranian Government-Sponsored APT Actors Compromise Federal Network

(U) Washington – Iranian government-backed hackers have allegedly compromised an unnamed federal agency for months, CISA and the FBI announced yesterday. The advanced persistent threat (APT) attackers gained entry by exploiting a Log4Shell vulnerability in an unpatched VMware Horizon system. The victim was a federal civilian executive branch agency and may have been compromised as early as February 2022. CISA and the FBI advised that other organizations should now be on alert in case they too have been similarly compromised.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [Government Technology](#) [CISA](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Georgia – Teenager Charged with Domestic Terrorism, Accused of Targeting Area High Schools

(U) Fayetteville – On Tuesday, authorities in Georgia arrested a 17-year-old boy after online threats were directed to at least two area high schools. The teen is charged with terroristic threats and domestic terrorism. Officials say the charges stem from threats of school violence posted on social media. At least two Fayette County high schools were targeted.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [WJCL22](#)

(U) New York – Two Russian Nationals Charged with Running Massive E-Book Piracy Website

(U) Brooklyn – An indictment and a complaint were unsealed yesterday charging Russian nationals Anton Napolsky and Valeriia Ermakova with criminal copyright infringement, wire fraud and money laundering for operating Z-Library, an online e-book piracy website. The pair was arrested on 3 November in Cordoba, Argentina at the request of the US. At the same time, Z-Library's network of online domains was also taken offline and seized by the US government.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Ohio – Accused Chinese Spy Who Sought GE Aviation Technology Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison

(U) Cincinnati – An accused Chinese spy who committed economic espionage on behalf of the Chinese government and tried to steal trade secrets from GE Aviation and other companies, was sentenced yesterday to 20 years in prison. Federal prosecutors said Yanjun Xu was a spy for the Ministry of State Security, China's intelligence agency, and had managerial responsibilities that included coordinating sophisticated and significant intelligence operations. Xu was convicted on all counts in November 2021.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) [US DOJ](#)

(U) Puerto Rico – US Border Patrol Seizes 198 Pounds of Cocaine During a Maritime Smuggling Event

(U) Quebradillas – Ramey Sector Border Patrol agents detected a vessel yesterday morning traveling without navigation lights approximately one nautical mile northwest of Quebradillas. When Border Patrol agents reached the location, they found a makeshift "yola" vessel capsized and a deceased male subject trapped underneath. BPA discovered the presence of narcotics scattered on site and seized three bundles and four bricks of cocaine, weighing 198 pounds estimated to be worth \$2 million.

SOURCE: 16 November 2022, [US CBP](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) South Africa – ISIS Uses Fake Tinder Profiles to Scam South Africans, Finance Terrorism

(U) Cape Town – Terror organization the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) is using fake Tinder profiles to catfish and blackmail South Africans into funding the organization's presence across Africa, according to watchdogs. Fake profiles set up by ISIS militants using photos of less-known actresses and models target South Africans by asking them to share intimate pictures of themselves. The profiles use these pictures to blackmail the individuals, demanding payment which is then reportedly funneled to the Islamic State leadership.

SOURCE: 14 November 2022, [The Australian](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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